

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:13-10-6
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Leonidas Willson House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/10/6 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7
Clarksburg H.D. A-4

4. Address: 23340 Frederick Road, Clarksburg

5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership	<u>private</u>	Title and Date:	<u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>		<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>occupied</u>		
Accessible	<u>no</u>	Federal	<u>State</u> <u>x</u> <u>County</u> <u>x</u> <u>Local</u>
Present use	<u>private residence</u>		

6. Date: c. 1840

7. Original Owner: William Willson

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This three bay by two bay, two-and-a-half story L-shaped house faces northeast. It has white novelty siding. The northeast (front) porch has a flat roof with a bracketed cornice line supported by four pairs of chamfered wooden posts; curved braces connect each pair of posts. The northeast double door has round-headed wooden panels, is flanked by two-light sidelights and is surmounted by a three-light transom. The northeast section has two-over-two double-hung windows; the southwest ell has six-over-six double-hung windows. The northeast section has a cross gable roof, the southwest ell has a gable roof. This house has two rooms on either side of the central hall; the southwest ell is a kitchen and family room. The hall, living and dining rooms have plaster medallions on the ceilings from which are suspended crystal chandeliers. The living room has a painted marbleized sandstone fireplace. The log buildings northwest of house appear to be quite old.

10. Significance: The Leonidas Willson house in Clarksburg is significant for its associations with the town's leading late 19th century citizen, and architecturally as a fine example of vernacular mid-19th century architecture. Leonidas Willson was the grandson of John Clarke (after whom the town was named) and the son of William Willson, the major landowner in Clarksburg. After graduating from Yale University in the 1830's, Leonidas returned home to run the old "trading post" which had served as the basis of the family's fortune. In the 1860's, he inherited the house which his father had probably built by 1840. Leonidas made improvements to the house, and after his and his wife's death it was sold at auction to a descendant, Charles Waters in 1911. In 1917 it was turned into a boarding house for summer vacationers. It was sold in 1962 to Dr. and Mrs. Howard Graves who have worked to restore it to its original state.

11. Researcher and date researched: Kevin Parker-9/79

Candy Reed
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation
Approval

15. Acreage: 1 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/10/6
Clarksburg H.D.
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Leonidas Willson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 23340 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Howard C. and Wilma Graves

Telephone #: 972-3060

STREET & NUMBER

23340 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20734

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3113

Folio #: 12

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:13-10-6

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large frame house with rubblestone foundations faces east. The main (front) section was built in the mid 1800s. It is three stories, three bays by three bays, with white clapboard and black wooden louvered shutters. The wide, high ceilinged porch across the front has eight paired chamfered posts, with an arch between pairs and at each end. The narrow ceiling boards are painted white. The porch has a flat roof. The boxed eaves have brackets which are paired; at each end of the facade, there are three brackets.

The double wooden door has deeply carved arches with a double side-light on each side.

Windows are mostly two-over-two double-hung with cornices, decorated with brackets matching those on the eaves but smaller in scale. Floor-length shutters frame the front windows. Above the front door is a three light window topped by a triangular pediment. There are two brick interior chimneys.

The roof has a central peaked gable with a round window, surrounded by carved trim. This section is covered with asbestos shingles.

The old section, perpendicular to the newer part, has two stories, three bay by one bay, with undecorated boxed cornice. It has a gable roof covered with seam metal, one interior metal chimney, and one brick chimney which appears to have been an exterior end chimney but is now enclosed by the newer house. Windows in this part are mostly six-over-six double-hung. The back section predates the rest of the house, but is so well integrated that its age is discernible only from inside.

The interior has a central hall plan and a wide rounded open-string stairway with a wide, carved handrail. There is another three-story "rounded" stairway. Decorative plaster work enhances the center hall, dining room, and parlor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leonidas Willson house in Clarksburg is significant for its associations with the town's leading late 19th century citizen. Architecturally the house is noteworthy as a splendid example of mid-19th century residential style and important for its fine boxwood gardens.

Leonidas Willson was the grandson of John Clarke (after whom the town was named) and the son of William Willson, the major landholder in the town.¹ After graduating from Yale University in the 1830's,² Leonidas Willson returned to Clarksburg to run the old "trading post" which had served as the basis of the family's fortune. He did not own any land, however, until after the death of his father. In 1869, at the age of 55, he bought out his brother's and sister's share in the property that was to become his home for the next 30 years.³

When Leonidas Willson acquired the property from the estate of his father, a residence already existed on the land. The 1865 Martenet & Bond map shows a structure being occupied by "T. Wilson", and William Willson owned a number of "improved" lots in the town as far back as 1804.⁴ The Leonidas Willson home most probably stands on the property acquired by William Willson from either Benjamin Browning in 1816⁵ or John Buxton in 1809.⁶ Both deeds mentioned "Improved" lots on the southwest side of the "great road", present Route 355.

The house appears to be the "dwelling house" on lots #4 and #5 listed under William Willson's name in the 1841 tax assessment.⁷ Stylistically the main block appears to be pre-Civil War and the 1841 assessment of the "dwelling house" indicates that a structure was built by the beginning of the 1840's. The ceilings are high with holes for stove pipes, and neoclassical elements appear on the exterior.

After Leonidas Willson bought the property in 1869, he continued to improve and alter it to fit his needs. Upon Willson's death the house went to his wife, Maria,⁸ whose death a few years later resulted in an equity hearing concerning the property.

Maria Willson's heirs argued over the Willson homestead,⁹ and to resolve the dispute the house (described as "an exceedingly well built dwelling house containing about 12 rooms") was sold at auction to Charles and Mary Waters in 1911.¹⁰ Charles was a Willson descendant.

The Waters remained for only a short time and in 1917 sold the home to Mr. & Mrs. Howard K. Miles,¹¹ who turned it into a boarding house called the "Boxwood Inn".¹² The Mileses were host to tourists from Washington escaping summer heat by staying at a country retreat. Upon Mrs. Miles' death in 1962, the home was sold to Dr. & Mrs. Howard Graves who have worked to restore it to its original state.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Equity, Land, Tax & Will Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 Martenet & Bond Map of 1865.
 Interviews: Mrs. Marian Jacobs and Dr. Howard Graves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kevin J. Parker Candy Reed - Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE	9/79
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE	Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

The home is a large structure in good repair and notable for many fine features. It possesses sophisticated plaster work on the interior as well as exceptional woodwork. An added feature is the well-grown boxwood-lined walk which lies directly behind the house. The structure is in an excellent state of preservation.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Montgomery County Assessment Records (1804).
2. Marian Jacobs, Washington Grove, Md. Interview. She is a descendant of Willson and owns his Yale diploma.
3. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., EPB 6/271 (April 12, 1869).
4. Tax Assessments, 1804.
5. Land Records, op. cit., S 20/57 (March 16, 1816).
6. Ibid., O/236 (March 11, 1809).
7. Tax Assessments, 1841.
8. Wills, GCD 2/55 (January 10, 1893).
9. Equity, 10/69 (January 1911). Decided 12/10/10.
10. Land Records, op. cit., 218/334 (April 1, 1911).
11. Ibid., 262/311 (March 23, 1917).
12. Interview with Dr. Howard Graves, current owner, July 1979.

NOTICES.

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the
the water in

Darby.
Mer. --
Buckwheat Flour,
' kinds & Lumber.

ROW,
and Fancy Goods, Dry
Goods, Hardware, Shoes, etc.

STOWN P.O.

at to an Inch.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

J. H. Gibson.
Dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries,
Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Drugs,
and Medicines, Stationery etc.

*Luther G. King,
Manufacturer and Dealer in Pure Rye
and Common Whiskey.
Near Clarksburgh*

C. Tho S. Anderson
Res.

Lee Wilson.

John Baker
Hewitt
Hilton & Kemp
Owners

Store ☒ ☐
J. H. Gibson
M13-10-2 Res. ☐

N:13-10-7
 Elizabeth Powers

Mary Waters
M: 13-105

Lee Wilson
H:13-10-6

To Houli & Sta.

Geo. W. Hilton ^{Res.}

Elizabeth Bowyer

Geo. W. Milton

CLARKSBURGH P.O.

ME 13-10

Scale 250 feet to an Inch

BENTON

Scale

. M: 13-10-6
Leonidas Willson House

